

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11

RSC-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

AGR-20 OIC-04 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 TAR-02

DRC-01 /254 W

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R 150021Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2724

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 523

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EORG, FAO

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE - FIRST PREPCOM - THIRD
AND FOURTH DAYS

1. THIRD DAY OF PREPCOM BEGAN WITH CONTINUATION GENERAL
COMMENTS BY DELEGATIONS ON PROVISIONAL WFC AGENDA. MOST
COMMENTS CAME FROM LDCS WHO CONTINUED EMPHASIS CONSIDERATION
WFC "IN BROADER CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT". ALL SUPPORTED
PROVISIONAL AGENDA IN GENERAL TERMS. INDIAN DELEGATE
DELIVERED LENGTHY BUT EFFECTIVE SPEECH URGING ATTENTION
TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN PREPCOM AND *ALLING ON
COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE CLEAR MANDATE TO SEC GEN ON PREPARATION
NECESSARY STUDIES FOR USE AT NEXT PREPCOM. SEVERAL LDCS
AGAIN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT WFC SHOULD RESULT IN ADOPTION
ACTION PLAN INVOLVING SPECIFIC MEASURES TO ATTACK FOOD
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PROBLEM. GENERAL SPEECHES TOUCHED ON NEED FOR MORE RAPID

TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER BETWEEN DCS AND LDCS, REDUCED TARIFFS AND NTBS AND SUPPORT FOR BUFFER STOCKS FOR FOOD EMERGENCIES. EASTERN EUROPEANS AGAIN ADDRESSED TRADE ASPECTS AND REPEATED TO LESSER EXTENT POLITICAL SLANT WHICH SOVIETS ORIGINALLY INJECTED INTO MEETING.

2. AFTER RECEIVING "GENERAL COMMENTS" ON AGENDA ITEMS 4 (SY GEN MAREI'S OPENING REMARKS) AND 5 (WFC DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA), THE CHAIRMAN INVITED "SPECIFIC" COMMENTS ON ITEM 5. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS INDICATED THAT NOT ALL GOVERNMENTS ARE READY TO ADOPT AGENDA AT THIS PREPCOM AND SUGGESTED THAT IT, ALONG WITH ANNOTATIONS, SERVE ONLY AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD GUIDE SECRETARIAT IN PREPARING WFD DOCUMENTATION.

3. US DEL (MARTIN) INITIATED DISCUSSION AND IN THIS AND TWO LATER INTERVENTIONS COMMENTED ON ALL FIVE DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS. HE SUPPORTED VIEW PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED THAT ASSESSMENT (ITEMS 1 AND 2) STATISTICAL PROJECTIONS SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND 1980 BECAUSE OF INHERENT UNCERTAINTIES INVOLVED AND THAT PRINCIPAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO BASIC GRAINS AND FOOD LEGUMES (ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SOME VARIATION ACCORDING TO PURPOSE). WFC SHOULD NOT EXPECT PRECISE GUIDANCE FROM ASSESSMENT, BUT WE SHOULD PLAY IT SAFE WHERE UNCERTAINTIES INVOLVED BECAUSE OF CRITICAL NATURE OF THE PROBLEM. HE OBJECTED TO POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED IN ANNOTATED AGENDA ON BASIS THEY PREJUDGED ASSESSMENT. HE SUGGESTED WFC ROLE IN IMPROVING DATA FLOW FOR EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON FOOD SHORTAGES.

4. COMMENTING ON ITEM 3 (INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN LDCS) USDEL SAID WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED NOT ONLY WITH INCREASED CONSUMPTION IN LDCS BUT ALSO WITH WHICH GROUPS ATE MORE. MAJOR WAY TO REDUCE MALNUTRITION WOULD BE TO REDUCE COST OF FOOD FOR LOW INCOME GROUPS. NECESSARY NOT JUST TO INCREASE PRODUCTION BUT TO DO SO MORE EFFICIENTLY TO KEEP COSTS DOWN. AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT WAS TO REDUCE DISTRIBUTION COSTS, INCLUDING REDUCING WASTE, IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION AND MARKETING. SO IMPORTANT MIGHT CONSIDER SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM ON DISTRIBUTION. INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN PRODUCTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD WOULD BE PROMOTED BY REDUCTION OF BARRIERS TO IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF BASIC FOODS. THUS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE MIGHT BE TAKEN UP IN THIS CONTEXT. BY EMPHASIZING COST EFFICIENCY ONE RELATED FOOD TO DEVELOPMENT FOR IT DEPENDED ON EFFICIENCY OF VARIOUS OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS. US DEL SUGGESTED FERTILIZER SUPPLY PROBLEM OVER NEXT FIVE-TEN YEARS (PREVIOUSLY RAISED BY INDONESIA DEL) SHOULD RECEIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF WFC AS

ONE MEANS CUTTING COSTS.

5. US DEL SUGGESTED THAT STOCKPILING AND FOOD AID (ITEM 4) WHILE INTER-RELATED, SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AS SEPARATE SUBJECTS ON THE AGENDA. EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF WOULD COME UNDER FOOD AID, RATHER THAN BE TREATED IN BROADER CONTEXT OF DISASTER RELIEF ON INSTITUTIONAL BASIS, AS SUGGESTED BY ANNOTATED AGENDA. IT WAS MADE CLEAR US FELT ANNOTATIONS ON FOOD AID PREJUDGED CONCLUSIONS WHICH US NOT READY TO TAKE YET. ALSO QUESTIONED ASSUMPTION THAT EMERGENCY ACTION ONLY OF INTEREST TO LDCS, SUGGESTING CATASTROPHIES MIGHT HAPPEN IN DCS. ALSO RAISED FAC ISSUE (REPORTED SEPTEL).

6. US DEL EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT TREATING TRADE (ITEM 5) AS SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM WOULD LEAD TO IMPRESSION THAT WFC CAN DO MORE THAN IS ACTUALLY POSSIBLE. WFC, A UN FORUM, COULD NOT MAKE BINDING COMMITMENTS -- A ROLE WHICH BELONGS TO THE MTN. HOWEVER, WFC CAN ENCOURAGE ACTION IN MTN. HE OBSERVED THAT INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT IS NOT SEPARATE SUBJECT FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE AS IMPLIED BY AGENDA. PRODUCTION AND ADJUSTMENT ARE BOTH RELATED TO TRADE. US DEL OBJECTED TO USE OF PHRASE "ASSURANCE OF EXPORT OUTLETS FOR FOOD SURPLUS TO DOMESTIC NEEDS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" IN ANNOTATED AGENDA ON GROUNDS THAT PRICE IS A KEY FACTOR IN ABILITY TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUSES AND AT LEAST SOME DCS ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN ACCESS TO MARKETS.

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ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11

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AGR-20 OIC-04 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 TAR-02

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ROME FOR FODAG

7. NUMEROUS DELEGATIONS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO U.S. PRESENTATION, PARTICULARLY THEMES COST EFFICIENCY IN PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION, IMPROVED AVAILABILITY AGRICULTURAL INPUTS (MAINLY FERTILIZER) AND NEED FOR SHORTER TIME FRAME IN FOOD DEMAND AND SUPPLY PROJECTIONS.

8. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS OBJECTED TO TOO NARROW DEFINITION OF FOOD, SUGGESTING INCLUSION FISH, DAIRY PRODUCTS, MEAT AND POULTRY. PERUVIAN TOOK EVEN BROADER VIEW SAYING FOCUS SHOULD BE ON LEVEL OF CALORIC INTAKE WITH SPECIFIC FOODS RELATED TO NATIONAL CONSUMPTION PATTERNS.

9. ARAB STATES SHOWED DISTINCT SENSITIVITY TO POINT MADE BY INDONESIA AND OTHERS REGARDING NEED INCREASE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION IN LDCS POSSESSING NECESSARY RAW MATERIALS. BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND ALGERIA STATED IT PREMATURE TO MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS UNTIL FAO COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS ISSUES REPORT.

10. SINCE VOTE ON AGENDA POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT PREPCOM, TRADE ISSUE NOT DEBATED AS THOROUGHLY AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. INDIANS, ALGERIANS AND YUGOSLAVS ALL TERMED TRADE CENTRAL ISSUE, WITH LATTER RECOMMENDING ASSURED MARKETS FOR LDC FOOD EXPORTS AT REASONABLE PRICES AND LOW PRICES FOR LDC FOOD IMPORTS. EASTERN EUROPEANS ECHOED SUPPORT TRADE THEME. DCS, PARTICULARLY AUSTRALIA AND EC DELEGATE, CAUTIONED AGAINST OVER-EMPHASIZING TRADE ISSUE. EC DELEGATE URGED CONFERENCE CONCENTRATE ON ASPECTS DIRECTLY LINKED TO NUTRITION AND INCREASED PRODUCTION IN LDC'S, AVOIDING DUPLICATION WORK OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

11. BEGIN COMMENT ALTHOUGH MARREC BY SOME PROCEDURAL CONFUSION (SEE SEPTTEL) THIRD AND FOURTH DAYS OF PREPCOM DISTINGUISHED BY DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT IN SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE. U.S. COMMENTS WELL RECEIVED AND ALLUDED BY BY MANY DELEGATES

(DC AND LDC) WHO WELCOMED AND APPEARED TO EXPECT
U.S. LEADING ROLE. MOST PREPCOM MEMBERS IN BASIC AGREEMENT
WITH U.S. COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 3 AND 4. SOME
DIVERGENT VIEWS EXPRESSED ON PERIOD ASSESSMENT SHOULD COVER
AND ON FOODS TO BE INCLUDED. TROPICAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS
COFFEE, TEA AND COCOA NOT MENTIONED, HOWEVER, AND ONLY
ONE DELEGATED (FRG) MENTIONED SUGAR. AS ANTICIPATED,
THEE STILL WIDE GAP BETWEEN DC AND LDC VIEWS REGARDING TRADE
ISSUES AND QUESTION OF COMMITMENTS BY WFC PARTICIPANTS.

IN FINAL SESSION FEBRUARY 15 PREPCOM WILL REVIEW AND APPROVE
DRAFT REPORT PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT. END COMMENT.
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